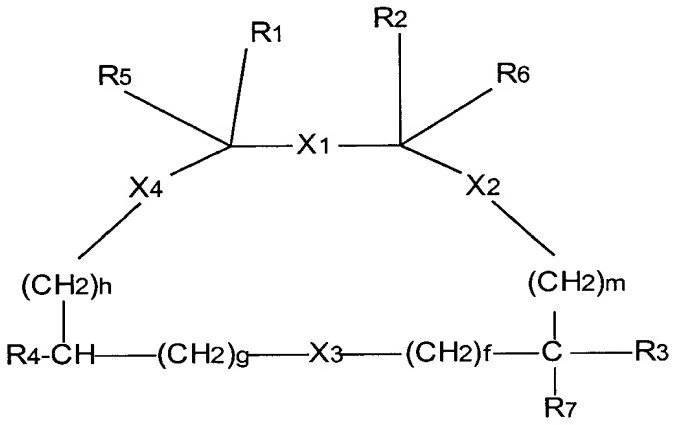
Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Amended twice) A monocyclic compound having the formula (I):



in which:

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, which may be the same or different from one another, is selected from the group consisting of -CONR-, -NRCO-, -OCO-, -COO-, $-CH_2NR-$ and $-NR-CH_2-$, where R is H or a C_{1-3} alkyl or benzyl;

[f,g, h, m, which may be the same or different form one another, represent a number selected from the group consisting of 0, 1 and 2;

R_1 and R_2, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a $-(CH_2)_r$-Ar group, where r = 0, 1, 2 and where Ar is an aromatic group selected from the group consisting of: benzene, naphthalene, thiophene, benzothiophene, pyridine, quinoline, indole, furan, benzofuran, thiazole, benzothiazole, imidazole, and benzo-imidazole, said Ar group being possibly substituted with a maximum of two residues selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyl or halo-alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxyl, C_{2-4} amino-alkoxyl, halogen, OH, NH_2, and $NR_{13}R_{14}$ where R_{13} and R_{14}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl;

wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen,

-linear or branched alkyl having the formula C_nH_{2n+1}, with n= 1-5, cyclo-alkyl or alkylcyclo-alkyl groups having the formula C_nH_{2n+1}, with n= 5-9,

$-(CH_2)_r$-Ar_1 group, where r= 0, 1, 2 and where Ar_1 is an aromatic group selected from the group consisting of: benzene, naphthalene, thiophene, benzothiophene, pyridine, quinoline, indole, furan, benzofuran, thiazole, benzothiazole, imidazole, and benzo-imidazole, said Ar_1 group being possibly substituted with a maximum of two residues selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyl or halo-alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxyl or amino-alkoxyl, halogen, OH, NH_2 and $NR_{13}R_{14}$ where R_{13} and R_{14}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl;

wherein R_4 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl,

- L-Q, where L is a chemical bond or a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl residue and Q is selected from the group consisting of:

i) H, OH, OR_9, NH_2, NR_9R_{10}, guanidine, sulfate, phosphonate and phosphate

where R_9 and R_{10}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a hydrogen C_{1-3} alkyl group, C_{1-3} hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3} dihydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}alkyl-$CONHR_{12}$, C_{1-3}alkyltetrazole, C_{1-3}alkyl-COOH or wherein R_9R_{10} joined together form with the N-atom a saturated 4-6 membered heterocycle possibly containing a further heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, O and S and wherein R_{12} is a mono-, di-, tri-glycosidic group possibly protected with one or more C_{1-3}-acyl groups or substituted with amino-groups or C_{1-3} acylamino-groups;

ii) COOH, tetrazole, SO_2NH_2, $SO_2NHCOOR_8$, $CONHR_8$, $NHCOR_8$, where R_8 represents a linear or cyclic C_{1-6} alkyl chain containing one or more polar groups selected from the group consisting of: OH, $NR_{15}R_{16}$, COOH, $CONHR_{12}$, PO_3H and SO_3H, OR_{11} and where R_{15} and R_{16}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl group, and where R_{11} is a C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{2-4} amino-alkyl chain, R_{12} is a mono-, di-, tri-glycosidic group possibly protected with one or more C_{1-3}acyl groups or substituted with amino-groups or C_{1-3}acylamino-groups or $R_{15}R_{16}$ joined together form with the N-atom a saturated 4-6 membered heterocycle possibly substituted with C_{1-3}alkyl-groups or with saturated 4-6 membered heterocycle-groups containing at least an N-atom;

iii) $COOR_{17}$, $CONHR_{12}$, OR_{12} where R_{12} is a mono-, di-, tri-glycoside group possibly protected with one or more C_{1-3} acyl groups or substituted with amine or C_{1-3} acylamine groups and R_{17} is a group R_{12} as above defined or a group C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, wherein the phenyl-group can be substituted with a group OH, NO_2, NH_2, CN, CH_3, Cl, Br;

R_5, R_6, R_7, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl group; with the proviso that when R_1 or R_2 are benzyl or 4-hydroxybenzyl then R_3 and R_4 are isopropyl and an acceptable salt or enantiomer thereof] f, g, h, m, which may be the same or different from one another, may be 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 which may be the same or different from one another, represent the side chain of a natural amino acid selected from the group consisting of tryptophan, phenylalanine, tyrosine and histidine, or the side chain of a non-natural amino acid selected from the group consisting of:

tryptophan and phenylalanine, either mono- or di-substituted with residues selected from the group consisting of C_{1-3} alkyl or halo-alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxyl or amino-alkoxyl, halogen, OH, NH_2 and $NR_{13}R_{14}$, where R_{13} and R_{14}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl group;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of:

– linear or branched alkyl having the formula C_nH_{2n+1} with n = 1-5 (selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl) cycloalkyl or

alkylcycloalkyl of formula C_nH_{2n-1} with n = 5-9 (selected from the group consisting of: cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and methylcyclohexyl)

$-(CH_2)_r$-Ar_1, where r = 1 or 2 and where Ar_1 is an aromatic group selected from the group consisting of: α-naphthyl, β-naphthyl, phenyl, indole, said Ar_1 group being possibly substituted with a maximum of two residues selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-3} alkyl, CF_3, C_{1-3} alkoxyl, Cl, F, OH and NH_2;

R_4 represents an L-Q group where:

L is a chemical bond or CH_2, and

Q is selected from the group consisting of:

– OH, NH_2, NR_9R_{10}, OR_{11}, and where R_9 and R_{10}, which may be the same or different from one another, represent a hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl group, C_{1-3}hydroxy alkyl, C_{1-3}dihydroxyaklyl, C_{1-3}alkyl-$CONHR_{12}$ (wherein R_{12} is a monoglycosidic group derived from D or L pentoses or hexoses (selected from the group consisting of ribose, arabinose, glucose, galactose, fructose, glucosamine, galactosamine, N-acetylglucosamine and N-acetylgalactosamine, C_{1-3}alkyltetrazole, C_{1-3}alkyl-COOH or wherein R_9R_{10} are joined together to form with the N atom a morpholine or a piperidine ring and where R_{11} is a C_{1-3} alkyl chain, or a C_{2-4} amino-alkyl chain; $NHCOR_8$ wherein R_8 is a cyclohexane containing from 2 to 4 OH groups, C_{1-6} alkyl chain containing a polar group (chosen in the group consisting of NH_2, COOH, $CONHR_{12}$, (wherein R_{12} is as hereabove defined) or ([1,4']bipiperidine)

– COOH, $COOR_{17}$ or $CONHR_{12}$, wherein R_{12} is as hereabove defined and R_{17} is as R_{12} or a group 4-nitrobenzyl.

– R_5, R_6, R_7 are H,

in which the carbon atom that carries the substituents R_3 and R_7 has configuration R.

3. (Amended three times) A compound according to Claim 2 selected from:

(a) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(b) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(S)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(c) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_{11}$)-CH_2-NH]}

(d) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_4$(4-OCH_3))-CH_2-NH]}

(e) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp(5F)-Phe-[(R)- NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(f) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp(Me)-Phe-[(R)- NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(g) Cyclo{-Suc-Phe(3,4-Cl)-Phe-[(R)- NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(h) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe(3,4-Cl)- [(R)- NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(i) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Tyr-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-CH_2-NH]}

(j) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_3$-3,4-diCl)-CH_2-NH]}

(k) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH($CH_2C_6H_4$-4-OH)-CH_2-NH]}

(l) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}

(m) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-2-napthyl)-CH_2-NH]}

(n) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-indol-3-yl)-CH_2-NH]}

(o) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-5-F-indol-3-yl)-CH_2-NH]}

(p) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_4-3-F)-CH_2-NH]}

(q) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_3-3,4-diF-CH_2-NH]-}

(r) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_4-4-CF_3-CH_2-NH]-}

(s) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH_2-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-NH]}

(t) Cyclo{-Suc-Trp-Phe-[(S)-NH- CH_2-CH($CH_2C_6H_5$)-NH]}

(u) Cyclo{-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-$(CH_2)_3CO$-}

(v) Cyclo{-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-N(CH_3)]-$(CH_2)_3CO$-}

(w) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-NH_2]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(x) Cyclo{-Suc[1(R)-NH_2]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(y) Cyclo{-Suc[2(S)-NH_2]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(z) Cyclo{-Suc[2(R)-NH_2]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(aa) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-NH(CH_3)]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(ab) Cyclo{-Suc[1-COO(CH_2-C_6H_4-4-NO_2)]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(ac) Cyclo{-Suc(1-COOH)-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}
[Cyclo{-Suc(1-COOH)-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}]

(ad) Cyclo{-Suc(1-OH)-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}

(ae) Cyclo{-Suc(2-COOH)-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}

(af) Cyclo{-Suc(2-OH)-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}

(ag) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(2H-tetrazolyl-5-ylmethyl)amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}trifluoro-acetic acid

(ah) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(morpholin-4-yl)]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(ai) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-$N(CH_3)_2$]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(aj) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(piperidin-4-yl]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}trifluoroacetic acid

(ak) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-($N(CH_2CH_2OH)_2$)]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]}trifluoroacetic acid

(al) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-($N(CH_2CH(OH)CH_2OH)$]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(am) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(3-carboxypropanoyl)amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}.

(an) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-[3-N'-ß-D-glucopiranos-1-yl)-carboxamidopropanoyl]amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2NH]-}

(ao) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-[(carboxymethyl)amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(ap) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-[N'-ß-D-glucopiranos-1-yl)-carboxyamideomethyl]amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(aq) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(chinyl)amine]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}

(ar) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-(4-aminobutanoyl)amino]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2- NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(as) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-[1,4')bipiperidin-1-yl]acetamido]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-} trifluoroacetic acid

(at) Cyclo{-Suc[1-N-(ß-D-glucopiranos-1-yl)-carboxyamido]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}; and

(au) Cyclo{-Suc[1(S)-[N'-(2-N-acetyl-ß-D-glucopiranos-1-yl)-carboxyamido]-Trp-Phe-[(R)-NH-CH(CH_2-C_6H_5)-CH_2-NH]-}.

5. (Amended twice) A composition comprising a compound of general formula (I) according to Claim 1 in combination with a suitable carrier or excipient.[.]

9. (Amended twice) A composition according to claim 7, adapted for use as an anxiolytic[s].

12. (Amended twice) A method of antagonizing an NK-2 receptor in a mammal afflicted with asthma comprising contacting an NK-2 receptor in said mammal with a compound according to Claim 1 for a time and under conditions effective to antagonize [an] said NK-2.

13. (Amended twice) A method of antagonizing an NK-2 receptor in a mammal afflicted with an anxiety disorder comprising contacting an NK-2 receptor with a compound according to Claim 1 for a time and under conditions effective to antagonize [an] said NK-2 receptor.

14. (Amended twice) A method for the treatment of the bronchospastic and inflammatory component of asthma, coughing, pulmonary irritation, intestinal spasms, spasms of the biliary tract, local spasms of the bladder and if the ureter during cystitis, and kidney infections and colics, in which quantities of between 0.02 and 10 mg/kg of body weight of active principle consisting of a compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, are administered to the patient for a time and under conditions effective to antagonize an NK-2 receptor.